

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 5-7, 9-16, 23-25 and 27-40 are now present in the application. Claims 5, 16, 23, 27, 29, 30, 32 and 33 have been amended. Claims 38-40 have been added. Claims 8 and 26 have been cancelled. Claims 5, 23, 35 and 38-40 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 35-37 are allowed and dependent claims 8, 11, 13, 16 and 26-34 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

By the present amendment, independent claims 5 and 23 have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 8 and 26, respectively, as discussed hereinbelow.

In addition, independent claims 38-40 have been added to include the subject matter of dependent claims 11, 13 and 16, respectively, as discussed hereinbelow.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. §119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Drawings

The Examiner did not indicate whether or not the formal drawings have been accepted. Since no objection has been received, Applicants assume that the drawings are acceptable and that no further action is necessary. Confirmation thereof in the next Office Action is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 5-7, 9, 10, 12, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated Kim, U.S. Patent No. 6,064,455. Claims 23-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated Kim. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussion of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

As mentioned, independent claims 5 and 23 have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 8 and 26, which were indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is believed that amended independent claims 5 and 23 are in condition for allowance.

In addition, claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 24 and 25 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 5 and 23, and are therefore allowable based on their respective dependence from independent claims 5 and 23, which are believed to be allowable.

In view of the above amendments to the claims and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5-7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15 and 23-25 clearly define the present invention over the

reference relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

Additional Claims

Additional claims 38-40 have been added for the Examiner's consideration.

As mentioned, independent claims 38-40 have been added to respectively include the subject matter of dependent claims 11, 13 and 16 and their base claim 8, which were indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is believed that independent claims 38-40 are in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration and allowance of additional claims 38-40 are respectfully requested.

Additional Cited References

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but rather to merely show the state of the art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

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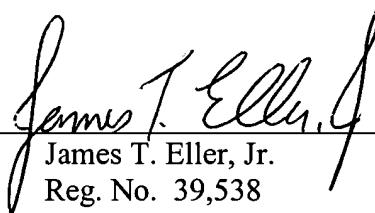
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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